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ANATOMY OF YOUNG HUMAN EMBRYOS

Thyng (Am. Jour. Anat. Nov. 1914) gives an extended account of the structure of a human embryo 17.8 mm. in length. The discussion is accompanied by 6 remarkably well executed plates.

Barniville (Jour. Anat. and Phys. Oct. 1914) gives a similar account, tho not so well illustrated, of an embryo whose greatest length is 8.5 mm. (about the 30th day of development). Justification of repetition of studies of this kind is to be found in the fact that enough such complete and thorough studies must be made to eliminate the element of individual variation in the various histogenic and organogenic stages.

PARASITISM AND SEX.

Smith and Hamm (Quart. Jour. Micr. Sci. Sept. '14) undertake to study the effect of the parasite *Stylops* on its hymenopterous hosts, especially in respect to secondary sex characteristics. There is a good deal that is interesting both in respect to the parasite itself and to the modifications of the hosts,—various species of *Andrena* in this study.

The female *Stylops* does not leave the body of the host and is of a degenerate, grub-like form. The male on the contrary escapes, becomes active and winged, and develops spermatozoa and perfect copulatory apparatus. The authors believe, however, that no fertilization can occur and that all development is parthenogenetic. Apparently the effect on the host is the same whether it is parasitized by the male or female *Stylops*. Parasitization of the male *Andrena* produces little effect on the testes, which produce normal ripe spermatozoa. The parasitized females, however, have ovaries reduced to about one-fourth normal size and produce only imperfect ova. In one or two minor points stylopization causes the female to develop secondary sexual characters of the male. The normally black clypeus of the female may become yellow like that of the male.

SO-CALLED PARTHENOGENESIS IN WHITE MICE.

It is known that mammalian oocytes whose follicles suffer degeneration frequently undergo nuclear divisions which have been interpreted as parthenogenetic cleavages. Kingery (Biol. Bul. Nov. '14) has studied these in immature white mice and concludes that

the process is one of more or less abnormal maturation, and not of cleavage at all. This abortive maturation is followed by degenerative fragmentation of the cytoplasm.

ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZATION OF A QUEEN BEE.

Jager and Howard (Sci. Nov. 13, '14) announce the successful injection, by artificial process, of sperm into a virgin queen bee. This was done on July 28. By August 4 the abdomen showed that the ovaries were developing favorably. On August 18 the queen began to lay eggs. About 3000 eggs were deposited. All the eggs except four have produced workers. The four produced drones. The brood behaved in a normal way in every respect. The studies will be continued next season.

FAT ABSORPTION IN THE KING SALMON.

Greene (Bul. Bur. Fisheries, Vol. xxxiii, No. 802) has undertaken by histological methods to trace the absorption of fat in the various parts of the digestive tract of the King Salmon. For staining the fat in the cells chief reliance was placed on alkaline scarlet red. Fresh material was dropped into 10% formalin for two hours or more. Sections were made by freezing. This method was checked by the Flemming osmic acid method. He finds that fat is absorbed thru the columnar epithelium of all portions of the tract. The cardiac and pyloric portions of the stomach and the intestine all absorb fat; but probably the greater part of the fat is absorbed thru the wall of the pyloric cœca. This seems their primary function. The author thinks that the fats pass thru the distal parts of the epithelial cells in a dissociated form, and that re-synthesis takes place in the deeper parts of the cells.

CULTURES FOR PLANKTON DIATOMS.

Allen (Jour. Mar. Biol. Assn. No. 3, '14) gives an account of efforts to make suitable artificial cultures for certain plankton organisms. The author found that "artificial" sea-water, made of doubly distilled water and pure chemicals in proportions found in sea-water did not serve. A small amount of sea-water (less than 1% will produce the result) added to such a culture was very successful. It was often more so than media based on sea-water itself. The author feels that this result is due to some specific sub-